multi-powered locomotives, removal of bottlenecks to traffic by planning for bypasses, flyovers, yard remodellings, reducing the number of permanent speed restrictions and monitoring of running of goods trains.

Contracts awarded to Coca Cola company on stations

†615. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of contracts awarded to the Coca Cola company in the country on the basis of private-public joint venture during the year 2007, station-wise;

(b) whether incidents of occupying more space than the allotted space at some place and selling articles other than authorized articles illegally by the contractors have been noticed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what action has been taken, so far, against the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) During 2007 M/s Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd. has been allotted contract for setting up of five Automatic Vending Machines (AVM) at Guwahati and one at Darjeeling Station.

(b) to (d) During the time of inspections held in 2007 at 13 AVM locations at Delhi, New Delhi and Hazarat Nizamuddin Stations operated by M/s Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd., discrepancies such as using more space than allocated to them for AVMs, selling unbranded/unpacked items and unapproved brands of packaged drinking water and non availability of essential licences *viz.* Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) licences, Medical fitness certificate to run the AVMs etc. were identified.

Actions like temporarily closing down of AVMs in 2 cases, imposing penalties in 6 cases, issue of warning in one case and counseling to rectify the discrepancies in four cases were taken.

Unutilized railway land

†616. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give its unutilized land for its development and the implementation of new schemes on the request of concerned State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of such land, State-wise;

(d) whether Government propose to lease out this land to the families residing on this unutilized land; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. However, on the request of State Governments, railway land, if spareable, can be considered for leasing on long term basis as per rules.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Rail-cum-road over-bridge over Ganga river

†617. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rail-cum-road over-bridge on the river Ganga at Patna, which is under construction, is unlikely to be completed within stipulated time limit;

(b) if so, the stipulated date for completion of the aforesaid rail-over-bridge and by when train is likely to be operational on it;

(c) whether Muzaffarpur-Laheriasarai-Darbhanga new rail line would be essential in light of the saving of time for traveling to North Bihar after commencement of rail operation through this rail over-bridge; and

(d) if so, the attitude of Government and the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The work is targeted for completion by March, 2012 depending upon availability of resources.

(c) and (d) A Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic survey between Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga (66 km) has been included in budget 2007-08. Further consideration would be feasible after completion of the survey.

Rail over-bridge near Jangipur railways station

618. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would agree to construct the road over-bridge near Jangipur railway station on Azimganj-New Farakka section of Malda Division on 50:50 basis; and

(b) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Road over bridge in lieu of Level Crossing No. 23/B/T near Jangipur Road Railway Station on Azimganj-New Farakka section has been sanctioned in August, 2007 (as supplementary work) at an estimated cost of Rs. 1291.53 lakh with Railway's share as Rs. 598.48 lakh and State Government's share as Rs. 693.05 lakh.

(b) Does not arise.

Direct rail link between Kolkata and Balurghat

619. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there is no direct rail connectivity between Kolkata and Balurghat; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.